WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for retrieving search results from a plurality of databases, comprising:

an interface configured to receive search information; and

a plurality of translators configured to retrieve search results from said plurality of databases respectively based on said search information;

wherein each of said plurality of translators formulates a search request using said search information and syntax and protocol information specific to its corresponding database; and

wherein said plurality of translators use said respective search requests to retrieve said search results from their corresponding databases in a concurrent manner.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a control engine configured to forward said search information to said plurality of translators and to consolidate said search results retrieved by said plurality of translators.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said search results consolidated by said control engine are passed to said interface for display to a user.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said search results consolidated by said control engine are passed to said interface for further processing.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein said consolidated search results are formatted using a markup language.

6. The system of claim 5 wherein said markup language is selected from a group consisting of HTML, DHTML and XML.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said translators is further configured to perform one or more authorization steps so as to communicate with its corresponding database.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are Web-accessible.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are locally accessible.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of translators communicates with its corresponding database using an interface protocol.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said interface protocol is selected from a group consisting of HTTP, telnet, Z39.50 and ODBC.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said interface is implemented using a Web browser; and

wherein said interface receives said search information from a user.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein said system is implemented using computer software.

14. A system for retrieving search results from a plurality of databases, comprising:

a user interface configured to receive search information entered by a user;

a plurality of translators, wherein each translator is configured to communicate with a corresponding database so as to allow a search to be performed in said corresponding database; and

a control engine configured to forward said search information to said plurality of translators, wherein each translator uses said search information and protocol information specific to its corresponding database to formulate a search request to effectuate said search;

wherein said plurality of translators use said respective search requests to effectuate said respective searches and retrieve said search results from said plurality of databases in a concurrent manner.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said control engine is further configured to consolidate said search results retrieved from said plurality of databases.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein each translator is further configured to perform one or more authorization steps so as to communicate with its corresponding database.

17. The system of claim 14 wherein said search results consolidated by said control engine are passed to said user interface for display to a user or returned to a calling program.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said consolidated search results are formatted using a markup language.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said markup language is selected from a group consisting of HTML, DHTML and XML.

20. The system of claim 14 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are Web-accessible.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are locally accessible.

22. The system of claim 14 wherein each of said plurality of translators communicates with its corresponding database using an interface protocol.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein said interface protocol is selected from a group consisting of HTTP, telnet, Z39.50 and ODBC.

24. A method for retrieving search results from a plurality of databases, comprising:

receiving search information from a user or a user agent;

formulating a plurality of search requests using said search information and database syntax and protocol information, wherein each search request is recognizable by a corresponding database;

executing said plurality of search requests in their corresponding databases in a concurrent manner;

returning search results from said plurality of databases after execution of said plurality of search requests; and

consolidating said search results for display to the user or the user agent.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising:

communicating said plurality of search requests to their corresponding databases using an interface protocol.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said interface protocol is selected from a group consisting of HTTP, telnet, Z39.50 and ODBC.

27. The method of claim 24 further comprising:

formatting said consolidated search results using a markup language.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said markup language is selected from a group consisting of HTML, DHTML and XML..

29. The method of claim 24 further comprising:

performing one or more authorization procedures respectively in said plurality of databases in a concurrent manner.

30. The method of claim 24 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are Web-accessible.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are locally accessible.

32. A method for retrieving search results from a plurality of databases, comprising:

receiving search information from a user;

generating a plurality of search requests using said search information and database syntax and protocol information, wherein each search request is tailored to be understood by a corresponding database;

retrieving search results from said plurality of databases in a concurrent manner pursuant to said plurality of search requests; and

consolidating said search results.

33. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

performing one or more authorization procedures respectively in said plurality of databases in a concurrent manner.

34. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

communicating said plurality of search requests to their corresponding databases using an interface protocol.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said interface protocol is selected from a group consisting of HTTP, telnet, Z39.50 and ODBC.

36. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

formatting said consolidated search results using a markup language.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein said markup language is selected from a group consisting of HTML, DHTML and XML.

38. The method of claim 32 further comprising:

presenting the consolidated search results to the user or a user agent.

39. The method of claim 32 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are Web-accessible.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of databases are locally accessible.

41. A computer-readable medium having program code configured to retrieve search results from a plurality of databases, said program code comprising:

a program code segment configured to receive search information from a user;

a program code segment configured to formulate a plurality of search requests using said search information and database syntax and protocol information, wherein each search request is recognizable by a corresponding database;

a program code segment configured to perform one or more authorization procedures respectively in said plurality of databases in a concurrent manner;

a program code segment configured to execute said plurality of search requests in their corresponding databases in a concurrent manner;

a program code segment configured to return search results from said plurality of databases after execution of said plurality of search requests; and

a program code segment configured to consolidate said search results for display to the user.